



# NEWS RELEASE

Internal Revenue Service - Criminal Investigation  
Los Angeles Field Office  
Erick Martinez, Special Agent in Charge

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Prepared by: Special Agent Linda Lowery, Public Information Officer  
Email: [linda.lowery@ci.irs.gov](mailto:linda.lowery@ci.irs.gov)

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## **Perris Resident Sent to Prison for Massive Tax Refund Scheme**

*Scam Obtained \$1.4 Million from Bogus Tax Refund Claims*

*Los Angeles* – A Perris resident was sentenced today to 36 months in federal prison for filing hundreds of bogus tax returns seeking fraudulent refunds from the Internal Revenue Service using the names and social security numbers of persons whose identity information had been stolen or otherwise improperly disclosed.

Demetrius A. Wyatt, 40, was sentenced this morning by United States District Judge George H. Wu, who also ordered the defendant to pay restitution of \$1.4 million to the IRS.

According to documents filed with the court, Wyatt pleaded guilty in August to three felony counts charged in a 38-count indictment. The specific counts to which Wyatt pleaded guilty were making and presenting false claims to an agency of the United States government (two counts) and subscribing to a false tax return (one count).

Over the course of a four-year period, Wyatt filed over 390 bogus tax returns, each of which was filed in the name of a person whose identity had been used without his or her knowledge. Each of the fraudulent returns requested a refund. Wyatt opened back accounts in the names of the individuals whose identities were used for the bogus returns and succeeded in obtaining over \$1.4 million in refunds.

In total, over 390 fraudulent returns were filed claiming at least \$1.9 million in tax refunds. The fraudulent returns caused at least \$1.4 million in actual losses to the IRS. Wyatt obtained the identity profiles used on the fraudulent returns from

several sources, including from individuals who worked in government offices and other individuals who worked in healthcare facilities.

In addition to filing fraudulent tax returns and obtaining tax refunds in the names of other individuals, Wyatt filed his own federal income tax returns claiming false dependents and failing to report the income received from the fraudulent return scheme. Specifically, Wyatt's failure to report his true income during the years 2006, 2007, 2008, and 2009 resulted in an aggregate tax loss to the government of approximately \$360,000.

Wyatt has been in federal custody since his bond was revoked in September of last year.

The investigation of Wyatt was conducted by IRS Criminal Investigation in conjunction with the United States Attorney's Office for the Central District of California.

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United States Attorney's Office contact:

Assistant United States Attorney  
Angela J. Davis  
(213) 894-3456